

Western Carolina University

My Dear Horace Kephart:  
Letters from George Mac Reynolds and Louise Rhead

Transcribed by Alex Foote

Dr. Brian Gastle

Eng 618

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## Introduction

Horace Kephart was a renaissance man of his day. A librarian, author, and impassioned outdoorsman, he maintained a career at the St. Louis Mercantile Library before moving to North Carolina in 1904. Kephart wrote extensively on camping, woodcraft, and wildlife. He also worked to establish the smoky mountain national park. To offer a sense of his personality and appreciation for both the human-made and the natural world, he wrote the following in a letter dated Oct. 2, 1888 to friend Harry Koopman: “Imagine Boston or Florence set in the midst of the Yellowstone Park with no suburbs or even a farm within 200 miles – that’s my idea of paradise! When a fellow wanted to he could go to the public library or the opera, when he wanted to, he could walk right out into the primeval truth of things and cuss the universe of shams – be Samuel Jonson and Daniel Boone by turns!”(26). The ensuing letters from 1916 reflect Kephart’s foothold in both the professional and natural worlds. The first is an entreaty to Kephart by editor of Pennsylvanian newspaper *The Doylestown Democrat* to be granted permission to reprint part of a speech Kephart gave to the St. Louis Society in 1901. The second letter is from naturalist, artist, and author Louis Rhead, who responds to Kephart’s inquiry regarding Rhead’s hand-crafted fishing lures and flies. These letters are housed in Western Carolina University’s Special Collections, which “focuses on manuscripts documenting southern Appalachian life and natural history, with particular attention to Western North Carolina” (“Horace Kephart”). The documents themselves are in good condition, though yellowed and fragile. Reynold’s letter is comprised of two pieces of stationary, each approximately 6 x 5. Written in impeccably neat, contained cursive and in blue ink, each page has two creases as the letter was folded into thirds to fit inside the envelope. Rhead’s letter was a full 8 x 11 and was folded into fourths, so has a ‘t’ shaped crease straight down the atlas and axis lines. His was a black-inked cramped hand, and the minuscule script, which made a few words impossible to decipher, took up the whole of the front page. Rhead taped two newspaper clippings to the back of this page; they remain in tact.

## Explanatory Notes

The following letters are transcribed in the fashion of the diplomatic edition, the objectives of which Erick Kelemen describes in *Textual Editing and Criticism*: “The diplomatic edition aims to report the text of a single, usually unique and usually notable document with as little editorial intrusion as possible” (Kelemen 109). Therefore, the formatting of the transcribed letters mirrors their originals; additionally, no punctuation or spelling was altered. If it was impossible to decipher a word, it is indicated with a [?]. Footnotes are included at the bottom of the page for the reader’s accessibility, and the image of the letter itself precedes each transcribed page. Because the final image consists of newspaper clippings, instead of annotating the text with footnotes I offer an explanatory addendum, in paragraph form, below the image.

Facsimiles of the letters are included in the transcription so as to invite the reader into the letter's aesthetic realm. There is a sensory experience involved with seeing (more so with holding) these hundred-year-old documents. The words themselves remain stationary, but the experience thereof is fluid. Kephart, to whom the letters were addressed, had a unique experience receiving and opening the letters 100 years ago; the experience shifts with the reader and the times, as it is a very different occurrence to hold the fragile, yellowing parchment today and it is still another thing altogether to read the typed, transcribed material. While digital transcription has revolutionized the way people can share and access documents and information, it can, at times, remove readers from an understanding and appreciation of text's nascent forms, and the understanding that those forms influenced every aspect of their construction and reception. The visual images have been included in hopes of persevering a sense of the reality of the manuscript that is untenable with the transcription alone.

THE DAILY DEMOCRAT  
ESTABLISHED 1890  
\$2.50; FOR: THE: YEAR

The Doylestown Publishing Company  
DOYLESTOWN,  
PENNSYLVANIA

DOYLESTOWN DEMOCRAT  
WEEKLY ESTABLISHED 1816  
\$1.00; FOR: THE: YEAR

Doylestown, Pa., June 12, 1916,

Hon. Horace Kephart,  
New York City, N.Y.:—  
Dear Sir:—

In the "Department of Local History" of The Democrat we are publishing material relating to early emigration from Pennsylvania to the South and West. We have just published Daniel Borne's "Adventures," written by himself, taken from an old volume in my library, entitled "History of the Discovery of America," etc., published in 1812. Some time ago we also published a short sketch of the Borne family, which was resident here before Daniel was born. My object in writing to you is to ask your consent to republish a pamphlet, embodying an address on "Pennsylvania's Part in Winning the West," which you delivered before the Pennsylvania Society of St. Louis, December 12, 1901. This, in my opinion, is a most excellent pro-

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duction, and I would like our Bucks county people to have the benefit of it, giving you, of course, due credit as its author.

The Kepharts are an old family here. I presume you are a descendant of the Bucks county Kepharts.

Very truly yours,

Geo. MacRynolds,  
Editor The Democrat

The Doylestown Publishing Company  
Doylestown, Pennsylvania

The Daily Democrat  
Established 1890  
\$2.50; FOR: THE : YEAR

Doylestown Democrat  
Weekly Established 1816  
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Hon. Horace Kephart  
New York City, N.Y. : -

Doylestown, Pa., June 12. 1916

Dear Sir: -

In the "Department of Local History" of The Democrat<sup>1</sup> we are publishing material relating to early emigration from Pennsylvania to the South and West. We have just published Daniel Boone's<sup>2</sup> "Adventures," "written by Himself," taken from an old volume in my library entitled "History of the Discovery of America," etc., published in 1812. Some time ago we also published a short sketch of the Boone family, which was resident here before Daniel was born<sup>3</sup>. My object in writing to you is to ask your consent to republish a pamphlet embodying an address on "Pennsylvania's Part in Winning the West,"<sup>4</sup> which you delivered before the Pennsylvania Society of St. Louis, December 12, 1901.<sup>5</sup> This, in my opinion, is a most excellent production and I would like our Bucks county people to have the benefit of it, giving you, of course, due credit as its author.

The Kepharts are an old family here. I presume you are a descendant of the Bucks county Kepharts.<sup>6</sup>

Very Truly Yours,  
Geo. Mac Reynolds  
Editor The Democrat

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<sup>1</sup> *The Doylestown Democrat*, published in Doylestown, Pennsylvania from 1861-1923.

<sup>2</sup> Nov. 2 1734-Sept. 26 1820; celebrated American frontiersman. Known for discovering a trail west through the Cumberland Gap, his involvement in the French and Indian war, and being among the first to settle in Kentucky despite Indian resistance. "Historically and imaginatively, perhaps no single individual is more central to the frontier experience" (Lofaro).

<sup>3</sup> Boone was borne in Burkes County, P.A.

<sup>4</sup> Kephart's speech looks at the history of pioneer's Western settlement, the challenges therein, and particularities associated with the Scotch-Irish, Pennsylvania German, and Pennsylvania Dutch.

<sup>5</sup> Comprised of Pennsylvania citizens resident in St. Louis; included a social and historical division.

<sup>6</sup> Horace Kephart was born in Pennsylvania in 1862; according to The Historical Society of Pennsylvania's genealogical research, Reynolds is correct in his claim.



LOUIS RHEAD  
217 OCEAN AVE.  
BROOKLYN, N. Y.

14 Jan 1916

My Dear Horace Telford

To me it is indeed very gratifying to get such letters from you.

Insects through and other distinguished out-door experts concerning my difficult - though delightful labors on the streams.

Wm Mills & Son are exclusive agents for the "nature flies". They get them tied by the best house in England from patterns I made direct from colored pictures of the living insects. They are very beautiful, - and, from reports so far, they will eventually come into universal use.

Because of the war, Mills was very late getting them ready last season, yet he paid me royalty on 300 dozen.

I will have him send you a set to look at if you express the wish.

Regarding the "nature lures" I make all myself - so far, but Mills will eventually have charge of them as with the flies. Should you care to examine them, I will pick out a selection and send them to you to look at. - placing them in a basin of water to see how they act. You can retain what you like, at a liberal discount from the price I am being paid. They take considerable time to make, and when done by a manufacturer will, of course, be much cheaper.

I had to suddenly drop Field & Stream because they returned (said lost) a page of my "shiny birds" - the originals being the only samples and I could not duplicate them. I transferred my contribution to Forest & Stream which has, during the last six issues published the frog, crawfish, hellgramite, grasshopper and many minnows. The Feb number will have the big seven inch silver shiner & golden chub for big lake trout, salmon and masacabaye brook, the most perfect lure as yet done, every one of which I made from pictures in color of the living creatures.

All these articles have been gathered together, judiciously edited and revised, and are now on the press to be issued by stockist 6 early in April, elaborately illustrated in line & color under the title - American Trout insects, and nature lures.

I want to find a place for a visit in early March to some place in Georgia or South Carolina to test some lures on shad - which I believe will take something in the nature of bait, just as salmon do. If they do, it will furnish anglers with a new game fish as good as salmon fishing.

With best regards

Yours truly  
Louis Rhead

Louis Rhead<sup>7</sup>  
217 Ocean Ave.  
Brooklyn, N.Y.  
14 Jan 1916

My Dear Horace Kephart

To me it is indeed very gratifying to get such letters from you, Emerson Hough<sup>8</sup> and other distinguished outdoor experts concerning my difficult –though delightful labors on the streams.

William Mills and Son<sup>9</sup> are exclusive agents in the “nature flies.” They get them tied by the best house in England from patterns I make direct from colored pictures of the living insects: They are very beautiful – and from experts so far, they will eventually come into universal use.

Because of the war, Mills was very late getting them ready last season, yet he paid me royalty on 300 dozen. I will have him send you a set to look at if you express the wish. Regarding the “nature lures” I make all myself – so far, but Mills will eventually have charge of them as with the flies. Should you care to examine them I will pick out a selection and send them to you to look at – placing them in a basin of water to see how they act. You can retain what you like, at a liberal discount from the prices I am usually paid. They take considerable time to make and when done by a manufacturer will, of course be much cheaper.

I had to suddenly drop Field and Stream<sup>10</sup> because they retained (said lost) a page of my “shiny devils”<sup>11</sup> the originals being the only samples, and I would not duplicate them. I transferred my contribution to Forest and Stream<sup>12</sup> which has, during the last six issues published the frog, crawfish, grasshopper, and many minnows. The few members will have the big seven inch silver shiner and yellow chub for big lake trout, salmon and mascalonge trolling<sup>13</sup>, the most perfect lure as yet done, every one of which I made from pictures in color of the living creatures.

All these articles have been gathered together hopefully edited and revised, and are now on the press to be issued by [?] early in April elaborately illustrated in line and color under the title American Trout insects : and nature lures.

I want to find a place for a visit in early March to someplace in Georgia or South Carolina to test some lines on shad<sup>14</sup> which I believe will take something in the nature of bait, just as salesmen do. If they do, it will furnish anglers with a new game fish as good as salmon fishing.

With Best Regards,  
[?]  
Louis Rhead

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<sup>7</sup> Nov. 6 1857-July 29 1926. Born in England, immigrated to America at 22, he was an artist, illustrator, author, and angler (fisher with a rod and line). He is most known and celebrated for his comprehensive work, *American Trout Stream Insects* of 1916, the result of seven seasons fishing in the Catskills collecting and studying the insects of the trout's diet. He included his color illustrations of the insects, and the work was heralded as America's first angling entomology. Additionally, he crafted and sold his own flies, or lures.

<sup>8</sup> 1857-1923. Accomplished author and enthusiastic outdoorsman.

<sup>9</sup> NYC tackle-firm that continued selling Rhead's lures through the 1940s.

<sup>10</sup> Monthly magazine established in 1895; merged with like periodicals in 2003 to become *Field & Stream*. Features include hunting, fishing, and wildlife preservation.

<sup>11</sup> Rhead's illustrated lures.

<sup>12</sup> Founded in 1873, merged with Field and Stream in 1930.

<sup>13</sup> Trolling is a method of fishing that involves slowly dragging a line through deep water. In his book, *American Trout Stream Insects*, Rhead wrote: “I have a particular antipathy to that horrible method known as ‘trolling’...” (Rhead 156).

<sup>14</sup> Type of fish, valued in sport.



For July, 1915

## Calendar of the Trout Stream Insects

PLATE IV—JULY INSECTS

Herewith we issue the fourth of Mr. Louis Rhead's Nature Fly Charts to enable our readers to fish intelligently according to time, date and rise.

No.	NAME	DATE OF RISE	TIME OF DAY	WEATHER	FAMILY	ORDER
1.	Golden drake.....	Early to late	Evening and dull days	Warm afternoons	Drake	Ephemera
2.	Pinktail .....	15 to end	Evening and dull days	Warm afternoons	Drake	Ephemera
3.	Silver gray.....	Late fly	Evenings	Warm evenings	Drake	Ephemera
4.	Spottail .....	Early to late	Evenings	Warm evenings	Drake	Ephemera
5.	Little Orange drake..	Early	Evenings	Warm	Drake	Ephemera
6.	Olive drake.....	Early to late	Evenings	Warm	Drake	Ephemera
7.	Orange stone.....	Early	.....	.....	Stone fly	Perlidae
8.	Brown stone.....	Early	.....	.....	Stone fly	Perlidae
9.	Redhead gnat.....	Early to late	All day	Warm days	Two wing fly	Deptera
10A.	White miller.....	Early	Evening and dull days	Any time	Moth	Lepidoptera
11.	Tiger beetle.....	Early	All day	Any time	Beetle	Coleoptera
12.	Plume spinner.....	Early	All day	Any time	Spinner	Deptera
13.	Golden spinner.....	Early	All day	Any time	Spinner	Deptera
14.	Green wing stone.....	Late	All day	Any time	Stone	Perlidae
15.	Orange spinner.....	Early to late	All day	Any time	Spinner	Deptera
16.	Brown bottle fly.....	.....	All day	.....	Two wing fly	Deptera
10B.	Orange miller.....	Early	Evening and dull days	Evenings	Moth	Lepidoptera

For June, 1915

## Calendar of the Trout Stream Insects

Herewith we issue the third of Mr. Louis Rhead's Nature Fly Charts to enable our readers to fish intelligently according to time, date and rise. July chart will appear in that month.

PLATE III—JUNE INSECTS.

No.	NAME	DATE OF RISE	TIME OF DAY	WEATHER	FAMILY	ORDER
1.	Female green eye..	First three weeks	Day, best at evening	Warm	Drake	Ephemera
2.	Male green eye..	First three weeks	Day, best at evening	Warm	Drake	Ephemera
3.	Broadtail .....	Early and late	All times	Cold windy days	Drake	Ephemera
4.	Green back .....	Early and late	Evening	Warm days	Drake	Ephemera
5.	Yellow tip .....	Middle	All times	Any time	Drake	Ephemera
6.	Spot wing .....	Entire month	Afternoons, evenings	Warm	Drake	Ephemera
7.	Lemon tail.....	Entire month	Afternoons, evenings	Warm	Drake	Ephemera
8.	Shiny tail.....	Early to middle	All times	Cold windy days	Drake	Ephemera
9.	Chocolate .....	Entire month	Late afternoons, even.	Warm days	Drake	Ephemera
10.	Orange black....	Entire month	All times	Any time	Drake	Ephemera
11.	Tawny drake....	Entire month	All times	Any time	Drake	Ephemera
12.	Black head.....	Middle to late	Afternoons, evenings	Any time	Drake	Ephemera
13.	Big eye.....	Middle to late	Afternoons, evenings	Any time	Drake	Ephemera
14.	Pointed tail.....	Early to late	All times	Any time	Dun	Trichoptera
15.	Gold rim.....	Middle to late	Afternoons	Warm days	Four wing fly	Hymenoptera
16.	Emerald .....	Early to late	Afternoons, evenings	Warm days	Stone fly	Perlidae
17.	Little yellow stone	Entire month	All times	Warm days	Stone fly	Perlidae
18.	Black dun.....	Early to late	All times	Warm days	Dun	Trichoptera
19.	Hairy spinner....	Middle to late	Evenings, afternoons	Warm days	Spinner	Diptera
20.	Gold body spinner	Early to late	Evenings, afternoons	Warm days	Spinner	Diptera
21.	Tiger spinner....	Early to late	Evenings, afternoons	Warm days	Spinner	Diptera
22.	Whirling spinner.	Early to late	Evenings, afternoons	Warm days	Spinner	Diptera



The markings “F+S” in the upper left corner of both images refers to *Field and Stream*, which published the lower image in June of 1915, the upper in July, as the pencil markings indicate. These images appear as taped to the back of Rhead’s letter to Kephart. In 1916, Rhead published these, along with fly charts for April, May, and August, in his book *American Trout Stream Insects*. The two charts are similar, though not identical, in organization. The lower clipping, inserted here in alternative font for differentiation, reads:

#### Calendar of the Trout Stream Insects

Herewith we issue the third of Mr. Rhead’s Nature Fly charts to enable our readers to fish intelligently according to time, date, and rise. July chart will appear in that month. Plate

#### III – June Insects

The table listed below this introduction has seven columns, which include: Number of insects listed (in the June issue, there were twenty-two), Name (of insect), Date of Rise (i.e., when the insects first appear in the season), Time of Day (i.e., time the insects are out most abundantly) Weather (in which they’re most likely to be seen), Family, and Order. The July table is similar; its only organizational difference is that the Plate number appears before the introductory statement, as follows:

#### Calendar of the Trout Stream Insects

#### Plate IV – July Insects

Herewith we issue the fourth of Mr. Louis Rhead’s Nature Fly charts to enable our readers to fish intelligently according to time, date, and rise.

This table has fewer insects than the first, a total of seventeen (with an interesting organizational choice; the insects are Numbered 1-10A, continuing to number 16, and then picking up again with 10B. 10A was the White Miller, 10B the Orange Miller). Because the charts are already available as facsimiles above, they are not reproduced here.

## Bibliography

"About The Doylestown Democrat. (Doylestown, Pa.) 1861-1923." *News about Chronicling America RSS*. Library of Congress. Web. 1 Dec. 2015.

This Library of Congress file offers information concerning the Doylestown Democrat, including place and date of publication, subject headings, preceding titles, and current holdings information.

"angling, n.1." *OED Online*. Oxford UP, Sept. 2015. Web. 1 Dec. 2015.

The Oxford English Dictionary provided information regarding angling.

"Field & Stream." *Ulrichs Web Global Serials Directory*. Serials Solutions. N.d. Web. 1 Dec. 2015.

Ulrichs database provides information regarding periodicals; for this transcription, it was used to research Field and Stream, Forest and Stream, and the subsidiaries thereof.

Ferree, Barre, ed. *Year Book of The Pennsylvania Society 1909*. Pennsylvania Society, 1909. Print.

This yearbook provided information about the Pennsylvania Society of St. Louis, i.e. their social and historical divisions.

Haugaard, David. "Collection GSP 001 Calvin I. Kephart Genealogical Research Files." (2008). *The Historical Society of Pennsylvania*. Web. 1 Dec. 2015.

This file is comprised of genealogical information and research regarding the Kephart and related families. It was published by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

*Horace Kephart: Revealing an Enigma*. Cullowhee, NC: Hunter Library Special Collections, Western Carolina University, 2005. Web.

This site provides further biographical information on Kephart.

"Horace Kephart." *Western Carolina University*. Western Carolina University, 2015. Web. 1 Dec. 2015.

This library site page offers a miniature biography of Horace Kephart and describes the material housed in the special collections section of Western Carolina University.

Kelemen, Erick. "Textual Criticism and Kinds of Editions." *Textual Editing and Criticism*. New York, NY: Norton, 2009. 73-120. Print.

Kelemen's chapter explains the uses of and approaches to different editorial styles and practices.

Kephart, Horace, George Ellison, and Janet McCue. *Camping and Woodcraft: A Handbook for Vacation Campers and for Travelers in the Wilderness*. Gatlinburg, TN: Great Smoky Mountains Association, 2011. Print.

This text provides an exemplary introduction to Kephart, and includes the letter fragment quoted in this introduction in which Kephart describes his idea of paradise to friend, Harry Koopman.

Kephart, Horace. "Pennsylvania's Part in the Winning of the West." Pennsylvania Society of St. Louis. St. Louis, M.O. 12 Dec. 1901. Address.

Kephart's extensive lecture looks at Pennsylvanian pioneer migration patterns and challenges.

Lofaro, Michael A. "Boone, Daniel." *American National Biography Online*. 2014. Web. 1 Dec.

This article offers a brief biography of Daniel Boone's life and significance in American history.

Rhead, Louis. *American Trout-Stream Insects: A guide to angling flies and other aquatic insects alluring to trout*. New York, NY: Frederick A. Stokes Company Publishers, 1916. Print.

Rhead's book explores angling; the newspaper clippings he attached in the letter to Kephart were later reprinted in this book.

Scholz, Lynn. "Louis Rhead's First Career." *The American Fly Fisher*. 12.1 (1985): 18-25. Museum of Manchester. Web. 1 Dec. 2015.

Scholz's article provides a relatively extensive biography of Louis Rhead, detailing his early life, artistic career, and contributions to the angling arts.

"shad." *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. Encyclopædia Britannica Inc., 2015. Web. 07 Dec. 2015.

Provides information on the shad fish.

Weiser, Kathy. "Old West Legends: Emerson Hough - Western Writer." *Legends of America*. 1 June 2014. Web. 1 Dec. 2015.

Weiser's article details Hough's authorial work and life, and provides links to a selection of his work.